ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A sound signal encoding apparatus for encoding two different sound signals, comprising: compression level calculating means for calculating a compression level for each of the sound signal sections; compression level judging means for judging whether or not the calculated compression level for each of the sound signal sections exceeds a predetermined threshold compression value; frequency components encoding means for encoding the quantized frequency components for each of the sound signal sections to a multiplexed bit stream with a predetermined bit rate under two different states consisting of the first state in which the frequency components for each of the sound signal sections are compressed by the first frequency components compressing means when the compression level judging means is operative to judge that the compression level for each of the sound signal sections exceeds the predetermined threshold compression value and the second state in which the frequency components for each of the sound signal sections are not compressed by the first frequency components compressing means when the compression level judging means is operative to judge that the compression level for each of the sound signal sections does not exceed the predetermined threshold compression value, the multiplexed bit stream with the predetermined bit rate being constituted by the sound signals for each of the sound signal sections and general information needed for the sound signals to be encoded and decoded.